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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 136  
By West

A RESOLUTION To honor Johnny Russell, country music  
entertainer

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a long and proud heritage of being the center of country music; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Russell, legendary singer, songwriter, comedian, and storyteller is one of the leading country music entertainers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell has been an important member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1985; and

WHEREAS, He has recorded the classics, "Rednecks, White Socks and Blue Ribbon Beer", "Catfish John", "The Baptism of Jesse Taylor", "Hello, I Love You", "She's In Love with A Rodeo Man", and "You'll Be Back"; and

WHEREAS, His most famous song to date is the immortal "Act Naturally" which was recorded by Buck Owens and the Beatles and has sold a phenomenal 20 million copies; and

WHEREAS, George Strait recorded Russell's "Let's Fall to Pieces Together" which topped the *Billboard Magazine* charts; and

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WHEREAS, Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and Linda Rondstadt included the Russell-penned "Makin' Plans" on their "Trio" album; and

WHEREAS, Other hit songs he has written include: "Got No Reason Now For Goin' Home" by Gene Watson, "In A Mansion Stands My Love" by Jim Reeves, "The Only Fire That Burns" by Bobby Vinton, and "You'll Be Back" by the Statler Brothers; and

WHEREAS, His songs have also been recorded by Loretta Lynn, Burl Ives, Dottie West, Patti Page, Vince Gill, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Hal Durham of the Grand Ole Opry staff has said "Johnny consistently delights the Grand Ole Opry audiences with his unique style of singing and comedy. He is an outstanding showman who carries on our tradition of quality entertainment here at the Opry."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell will be specially recognized and honored at a ceremony to be held on Thursday, March 22, 2001, at the Grand Ole Opry House, with an all-star lineup that includes, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Roy Clark, the Oak Ridge Boys, Ricky Skaggs, Ralph Emery, the Carol Lee Singers, George "Goober" Lindsey, and Johnny Counterfit; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the life and numerous contributions made by Johnny Russell to the Grand Ole Opry and to country music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Johnny Russell for bringing happiness to his countless fans and for playing a significant role in the growth of country music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.